

City of Laredo 2003 Action Plan



City of Laredo 2003 Consolidated Plan Summary

Action Plan

The 2003 Consolidated One Year Action Plan identifies the specific duties to be carried out by the City and local nonprofit organizations in support of local housing and non-housing needs with specific reference to activities carried out with HUD funds. The City of Laredo's Consolidated Plan further serves as an application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the 29th AY Community Development Block Grant, the 2003 HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and the 2003 Emergency Shelter Grant. It includes a One Year Action Plan for spending approximately \$6,071,026 million of CDBG, HOME, and ESG program year funds and program income.

Citizen Participation

The City of Laredo's Department of Community Development acted as the lead agency in the preparation and submission of the FY 2003 Consolidated One Year Action Plan and sought citizen and local service agency participation in the development of the plan so that the plan would accurately reflect local conditions, needs, and solutions. A series of 5 public meetings and 1 public hearing were held prior to the preparation of the plan. Additionally, City staff met with and/or received information from 24 local service and housing agencies. The Draft Plan was made available for public review and comment for a 30 day period extending from June 15, 2003 to July 15, 2003. Timely notices of public meetings, hearings and comment period were placed in the City's newspaper of widest circulation and distributed among different offices of local service agencies. Notices were printed in both English and Spanish.

Several citizen comments were received during the public meetings that were held from April 14, 2003 through April 24, 2003. The public meetings were held in order to give citizens an opportunity to express their housing and community development needs. Ultimately, comments received from the community at these meetings were made part of the City of Laredo's 2003 Consolidated Plan. This year's public meetings were held at the subsequent five locations; Azteca Economic Development & Preservation Corporation, Tarver Recreational Center, Farias Recreational Center, East Hachar Recreational Center and Cigarroa Recreational Center. A public hearing was also held on April 21, 2003 in the City Council Chambers of City Hall located at 1110 Houston during the regularly scheduled City Council meeting beginning at 5:30 p.m

Resources Available

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The City specifically anticipates to receive \$4,407,000 in Community Development Block Grant Funds; \$1,454,026 through the HOME Investment Partnerships Program; \$150,000 through the Emergency Shelter Grant; \$180,000 in Housing Rehab Program Income; and approximately \$60,000 in HOME Program Income. These funds are proposed to be used as follows:

Community Development Block Grant

Approximately 84% of the City's 29th AY CDBG is proposed to be utilized in support of non-housing activities. Those activities proposed to be funded coincide with the non-housing priorities set in the City's Five Year Consolidated Plan submitted in 2000. Specifically, CDBG funds will be used in support of the following: \$635,277 for Community Development Administration; \$525,000 for Public Improvements in the form of sidewalks; \$1,675,000 for Public Facilities in the form of parks, park improvements, and a community center; \$389,275 for Public Services in the form of Graffiti Removal and acquisition of fire equipment; \$337,609 for Code Enforcement; and \$50,000 for Demolition.

CDBG funds used in support of housing activities are as follows: \$408,308 for Housing Rehab Loan Program; \$215,531 for Housing Rehab Administration; \$171,000 for Hamilton Hotel-Section 108 Loan Repayment.

Home Investment Partnerships Program

The activities to be carried out with HOME Investment Partnership Program funds include a 15% set aside funds for the use of a Community Housing Development Organization \$218,100, downpayment assistance \$773,229, program administration \$138,697, and Tenant Based Rental Assistance \$324,000. Additionally program income anticipated to equal \$60,000 is expected to be made available to carry out housing activities.

Emergency Shelter Grant

The City of Laredo anticipates to receive an Emergency Shelter Grant allocation of \$150,000 for the 2003 year. The City will utilize 30% or \$45,000 of its allocation to provide homeless prevention services in contract with local service provider(s). An additional \$103,500 will be used for shelter operation expenses and/or shelter rehabilitation. A requests for proposals was made in April of 2003 and five agencies submitted proposals in May 2003. Awards to homeless provider agencies will be made once the funds are made available by HUD. As allowed, approximately 1% or \$1,500 of the allocation will be used to cover reasonable administrative costs. A match which equals the amount allocated by HUD, will be generated through in-kind, volunteer, and/or donated contributions by the City or its sub-recipient, as deemed acceptable in Section 576.71 of 24 CFR, part 576.

Housing Goals

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The housing goals for the City of Laredo during the third year of the Consolidated Plan include providing homeownership opportunities to 150 families with downpayment assistance. The City proposes to repair and bring to standard condition 46 housing units through the City's moderate rehabilitation program. These goals will be achieved through the direct efforts of the City in partnership with the private sector as applicable. The Plan identifies additional housing goals in terms of rental assistance, construction of rental housing, first-time homebuyer new construction and downpayment assistance as made possible through other public and private efforts.

Locations

Funds will be primarily utilized in areas of low income as identified in the census tract income data provided by HUD. In other instances, funds will be utilized citywide and made available to limited clientele whose incomes equal <80% of HAMFI.

Lead Agencies

The City of Laredo's Department of Community Development acted as the lead agency in the preparation and submission of the Consolidated Plan. However, the various government agencies and non-profit organizations together with the private sector play an important role in carrying out activities which further local housing and community development goals.